

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ITC-01

AGRE-00 /087 W

-----090943Z 002825 /15

R 081842Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3925

INFO AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON FOOTWEAR IMPORT RELIEF

REF: ROME 5548

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ON ON
FOOTWEAR WAS DISAPPOINTINLY SCANTY BUT PREDICTABLY FRIENDLY.
BUSINESS DAILIES (II SOLE-24 ORE, IL FIORINO) COVERED ALL ASPECTS
OF THE DECISION, INFLUENTIAL NATIONALLY-CIRCULATED DAILIES (CORRIERE
DELLA SERA, IL GIORNALE, LA NAZIONE) COVERED DECISION ITSSELF, EMPHA
SING
BENEFICIAL EFFECTS TO ITALY OF PRESIDENT'S REFUSAL TO RESTRICT IMPORT
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OF ITALIAN FOOTWEAR. U.S. UNION AND MANUFACTURERS OPPOSITION NOTED.
LEFTIST PRESS (COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'UNITA AND SOCIALIST PARTY'S
AVANTI) IGNORED DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE SERIES OF ARTICLES IN PRESS DESCRIBING POTENTIAL IMPACT
OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AGAINST ITALIAN FOOTWEAR PRIOR TO PRESIDENTIAL

DECISION, PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ITSELF WAS SCANTY.

PRESTIGIOUS MILAN BUSINESS DAILY II SOLE-24 ORE (LINKED TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION CONFINDUSTRIA), IN ADDITION TO ARTICLE ON DECISION ITSELF, REPORTED RESULTS OF FOOTWEAR MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION (ANCI) OFFICIALS CALL ON AMBASSADOR GARDNER, INDICATING THAT AMBASSADOR HAD SHOWN COMPREHENSION OF ITALIAN INDUSTRY'S PROBLEMS. DECISION ITSELF COVERED BY ALL MAJOR PAPERS. ECONOMIC DAILY II FIORINO AS WELL AS MILAN'S CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND IL GIORNALE HEADLINED PRESIDENT CARTER'S REFUSAL TO RESTRICT FOOTWEAR IMPORTS. IL FIORINO ADDED THAT THE "FEAR OF ITALIAN FOOTWEAR PRODUCERS HAS ENDED" AND COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE U.S. TRADE POLICY WHICH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GATT PHILOSOPHY, ADVOCATES REDUCTION OF TRADE BARRIERS. PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT REFUSAL REPRESENTED A BLOW TO

U.S. FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY, WHICH HAD CLOSED DOWN 274 PLANTS WITH 70,000 JOBS IN PAST FEW YEARS.

2. TEXT AND IMPLICATIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER PRESS CONFERENCE WERE SUMMARIZED BY THE ECONOMIC DAILIES, WHICH ECHOED THE SATISFACTION EXPRESSED BY THE ITALIAN FOOTWEAR MANUFACTURERS AND REPORTED A STATEMENT BY ANCI PRESIDENT SALUTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S

CARTER'S "JUDICIOUS AND NOT DEMAGOGIC LINE CHOSEN AT A TIME WHEN PROTECTIONISM IS REAPPEARING IN MANY COUNTRIES". BOSSI'S COMMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPEARED ALSO IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND FLORENCE'S LA NAZIONE, LATTE R PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SINCE TUSCANY IS CENTER OF ITALIAN SHOE PRODUCTION.

3. APPARENT DECISION OF U.S. SHOE MANUFACTURERS AND UNIONS TO CHALLENGE PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ALSO CARRIED BY CORRIERE UNDER FOUR-COLUMN HEADLINE "U.S. UNIONS REOPEN WAR AGAINST ITALIAN SHOES." POSSIBILITIES FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO OVERTURN DECISION NOTED, AS WELL AS STATEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT'S DECISION WOULD MEAN LOSS OF 30,000 JOBS IN U.S. SHOE INDUSTRY.

4. LEFTIST PRESS IGNORED PRESIDENTIAL DECISION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER OSSOLA

EXPRESSED DEEP GRATIFICATION OVER THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, NOTING THAT IT HAD SAVED HIM "A BIG HEADACHE." OSSOLA AGREED WITH THE

AMBASSADOR THAT IT WOULD BE IN BOTH OF OUR INTEREST TO STIMULATE
FAVORABLE COMMENT AND HE UNDERTOOK TO DO SO (AS D D EMBASSY).
GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, FOOTWEAR, TARIFFS, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME05911
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770474/aaaacmgf.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cdfd48a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 5548
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2857417
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON FOOTWEAR IMPORT RELIEF
TAGS: ETRD, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cdfd48a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009